JUMP START!
A TASTE OF WHAT'S NEW IN JAPAN
Genetic Screening
LIBIDO
U19
UNDER 19
BY YUJI KIMURA
CHAPTER 2: RED STRING

GROWN-UP PARTY
RESPECTABLE GROWN-UPS FOR YOUR CHIHYAY
IN THIS SOCIETY WHERE WE ARE SUPPRESSED BY GROWN-UPS..
THE YEAR 2036...
WHO KEEPS ME GOING. SHE'S MY FOUNDATION.
IT'S MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND AKARI TSUKINO..
FOR ME..
EIJI KUDO...
AKARI IS..
BUT NOW
GROWN-UP PARTY NEW POLICY
GENETIC SCREENING

SHHH
DID YOU SAY AKARI'S TRANSFERRING?
DID YOU
TRANSFERRING?
MRS. TSUKINO?
...
HEH HEH...
MR. TSUKINO...
GRP
DID I HEAR YOU RIGHT?
YOU KNOW THE GENETIC SCREENINGS THIS MORNING, RIGHT?
WELL, AKARI HERE GOT A TRIPLE S RANK!
AND SO MR. EBISU FROM THE GROWN-UP PARTY...
HAH HAH HAH!
PAT!
HE JUST SUGGESTED THAT AKARI SHOULD BE IN A MORE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT!
APPRO PRIATE ENVIRON- MENT?

WHAT ?!
USUALLY ONLY THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF EXECUTIVES FROM BIG COMPANIES OR OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS GET TO ATTEND THAT SCHOOL.
BUT HE'S GIVING AKARI A RECOMMENDATION AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION.
A RANK-A HIGH SCHOOL IN TOKYO!
!!!
?!
HE'S TAKING CARE OF ALL THE NECESSARY PROCEDURES AND WILL BE BACK BY THE END OF THE DAY!
THE GROWN-UP PARTY WORKS SO FAST! ♪
AND YOU TWO ACTUALLY OKAYED SUCH A CRAZY IDEA?!
BUT...
T-TODAY ?!!
WHAT.
YES! AS HER CHILD-HOOD FRIEND!
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY FOR HER, EIJI!
...NOW WE KNOW AKARI SHOULDN'T BE WASTING HER LIFE OUT HERE IN THE COUNTRY!
HAH HAH
WELL

...PEOPLE THINKING?!
WHAT ARE THESE...
...
SHE SAID SHE ENJOYS WALKING HOME WITH ME EVERY DAY...
AKARI AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE WE WERE KIDS...
BE HAPPY FOR HER?! HOW COULD I?!
YOU GROWN-UPS JUST MADE THIS DECISION FOR HER, DIDN'T YOU?!
YOU JUST...
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO HER!!
I MEAN, LOOK AT HER!
IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?!
!!
WATCH YOURSELF, KUDO!!

SHE ISN'T SAYING A WORD!!!
HAVE YOU ASKED HER HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT THIS?!!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, KUDO!!!
SLAM!!
ゴッ!!
!!!
SURE, IT'S SUDDEN...
AND TSUKINO DID SHED A TEAR OR TWO!
!!
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?!
GENGH!!
BUT...
BUT...
WE MADE A PROMISE!!
SO IN THE END, SHE AGREED TO IT!!
BUT YOU PROBABLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND SUCH VIRTUE!
AND SHE SAID THAT BECOMING A RANK-A GROWN-UP WILL REALLY HELP HER FAMILY OUT.
BOTH HER PARENTS ARE RANK D!!

THAT WE'D GET MARRIED WHEN WE GROW UP!!!
WE'RE CONNECTED BY A RED STRING!!!
HMPH
AKARI AND I...
YOU HEARD US THAT DAY, DIDN'T YOU, MR. AND MRS. TSUKINO?!
はははははははは!!
HAH HAH
HAH HAH HAH!!
KUDO!!!
THIS IS WHY YOU WON'T GROW UP TO BE A RESPECTABLE GROWN-UP!!!
YOU TWO AREN'T EVEN DATING, ARE YOU?!
THAT WAS WHEN YOU WERE CHILDREN!

!
URGH
...
LET GO OF ME!!
GRAB
!!
AKARI?!
DASH!
DARN HIM!
IT'S OKAY, MR. TANI.
AKARI !!!
TMP!
LET THEM SAY THEIR GOODBYES..
THEY'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
HA HA HA HA!
AHA.
?!
AKARI, WAIT!!
AT LEAST LOOK AT ME!!
WHERE YOU GOING?!

I'M...
I'M HAPPY!!
THAT'S ALL!
I'M FINE!!
WHAT
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?!
AKARI, WAIT!!!
FSHHH...
...
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT OKAY WITH THIS...
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!
AHA HA HA..
THE
THE
THE

IT'S...
NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
I'M CRYING BECAUSE I'M HAPPY!
BECAUSE I CAN FINALLY BE A GOOD DAUGHTER...
BECAUSE I WON'T H VE TO LOOK OUT FOR...
...SOME SEWING FREAK ANYMORE.
SEWING FREAK...?
YOU'RE CRYING!!
...!!

FWP
EVERYBODY LAUGHS AT YOU FOR BEING A PASSIVE HERBIVORE GUY!
SO WHY DO YOU KEEP DOING IT?!
BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KEEP DOING IT!!
TUG
YOU TAUGHT ME! I GOT INTO IT BECAUSE OF YOU!
...

YOU KNOW WHY!!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU...
AKARI ...
BECAUSE ...
ズキン
STING
BECAUSE I...
I LIKE SPENDING TIME WITH YOU.
AKARI !!!
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU!!!

...WHEN IT MIGHT BE TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE, BUT...
I'M SAY-ING IT ANYWAY!!
I KNOW IT'S LAME...
...TO TELL YOU...
I'VE FELT THAT WAY SINCE OUR PROMISE!!
EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS...
...I KNEW YOU WERE THE ONE FOR ME, AKARI!!!!
TO BE A COUPLE AND NOT JUST CHILDHOOD FRIENDS!!!
SO...
TO ASK YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME!!!
I REALLY WAS GOING TO TELL YOU HOW I FEEL TODAY!!

SO DON'T GO...
FWIP
?!
WHY?
WHY ARE YOU...
...TELLING ME THAT NOW?
I WAS FINALLY THINKING I COULD BE...
...AWAY FROM YOU AND THAT I COULD HANDLE IT.
BUT HEARING YOU SAY THAT...
I...
I...

I LOVE YOU TOO!!!
OF COURSE I DO!!!
"THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO RAISE YOUR RANK.."
"YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE A MISERABLE LIFE LIKE OURS, DO YOU?!"
BUT MOM AND DAD WERE LIKE..
I NEVER ONCE FORGOT OUR PROMISE!!!
I'VE MADE IT THIS FAR BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVED!!
AND WE'D BE TOGETHER AS GROWN-UPS..!!
WE'D ALWAYS BE TOGETHER..

I JUST DON'T KNOW!!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT ...
...MOM AND DAD WERE HAPPY!!
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU, EIJI...
BUT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANY-MORE!!!
DARN IT!
WHY?!
GRK...
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!!
WHY DIDN'T I...
WHY DIDN'T I DO THIS SOONER?!!

VWP VWP!!
VWP VWP!!
GROWN-UP PARTY
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, MISS AKARI TSUKINO!!
?!!

MM...?
SUCH AN EXEMPLARY CHILD!!
I WISH MY SON WAS MORE LIKE YOU!!
VWP VWP
VWP
HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU TO WAIT FOR US ON THE ROOF!!

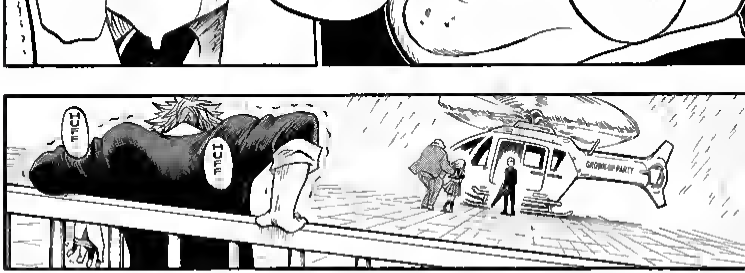
...
FSHHH
アアアア
アアアア

HAH HAH HAH
OH.
A GOOD FRIEND HAS COME TO SEND YOU OFF.
OF COURSE!
FRIEND?
NO!!
I'M...
...BOY-FRIEND!!!
!!!
I'M AKARI'S...
NOT EVEN THE GROWN-UP PARTY...
SQZ!
NOBODY'S GONNA GET BETWEEN US!!!
NOTHING'S GOING TO SEPARATE US!!!

SIG
WHAT A PAIN...
KCHK
PSHH!!
...
BLAM!!
WHAT?!
GUSH

GRB
WH...
WHAT ARE YOU...
...DOING?!
?!
AAA-AARGH!!
DARN
TROUBLE-MAKER
AH..
THUD
WHAT CAN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DO?
WASN'T IT IN YOUR TEXTBOOK?
BASH
FINAL!!
YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUTTA MY MOUTH!!!
WHEW
FSHHH
KIDS THAT DISOBEY GROWN-UPS..
BASH
..WILL BE SUBJECT TO CORPORAL PUNISHMENT!!
!!
WHAK
WHAM
BASH
KRAK

WELL!
NOW YOU KNOW, RIGHT?
WHAT YOU SHOULD DO?
...


THUD
THUD
GROWN-UP PARTY

GRRR...!
THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT!!!
THUD
THUD
...RIGHT.
THIS ISN'T...
THEY..
THEY DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT...
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THE GROWN-UP PARTY IS,
GROWN-UP PARTY

...TO TAKE AWAY THE PERSON WHO'S MOST IMPORTANT TO ME!!
ドクン...
BABMP...
ドクン...
BABMP...
ドクン...
BABMP...

THIS IS WHERE IT GETS INTERESTING.
HEAR ME OUT.
ZNG!
?!

A SPECIAL POWER THAT AWAKENS IN PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO...
...EXTREME STRESS!!
CRAP... WHAT THE—?!
MY HEAD HURTS!

THEY'RE ACTUALLY NOT FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE.
THEY HAVE CERTAIN POWERS.
POWERS—?

FORGET IT...
IT DOESN'T MATTER!!
RIGHT NOW WHAT MATTERS IS...

SPLSH!
THEY CAN DEFLECT BULLETS..
??
FLY IN THE SKIES..
IT'S SUPPOSED TO ESPECIALLY MANIFEST ITSELF IN KIDS..
ZSAAAAAA
THAT'S THE OTHER URBAN LEGEND...
LIBIDO !!!
?!!
BABMP!!

YEAH...
THAT'S RIGHT!!
WE'RE...
WE'RE CONNECTED BY THE RED STRING OF FATE!!
I CAN'T LET GO OF HER!!
AKARI... DON'T GO!!!
BIP

WHAT
...
RMMM...
WHAT IS THIS?!
BAM
?!!
SNP SNP SNP
?!
ZWP ZWP
TO BE CONTINUED...